

By the Committee on Education; and Senators Sobel and Brandes

581-03199-14

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Senate Resolution

A resolution expressing opposition to the academic boycott of Israeli universities and institutions of higher learning and support of academic and political freedom and collaboration with Israeli universities.

WHEREAS, Israel is the only country in the Middle East which is a democracy, and

WHEREAS, Israel is a strong ally of the United States, and this alliance is based on shared values and interests, and invaluable cooperation in military technology, cyber security, medicine, biotechnology, agriculture, bilateral trade and commerce, as well as educational, research, and cultural exchanges, and

WHEREAS, some groups have proposed an academic boycott as a means of insinuating that Israel discriminates against Palestinian Arabs, and

WHEREAS, Israeli universities are in reality open to all people, regardless of gender, creed, race, or nationality, and fully encourage academic freedom, and

WHEREAS, the academic boycott of Israeli universities and institutions of higher learning is antithetical to the principles of academic freedom and to the free and open exchange of ideas, NOW, THEREFORE,

Be It Resolved by the Senate of the State of Florida:

That the Florida Senate stands with Israeli universities and institutions of higher learning, and stands against the

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30 academic boycott of Israeli universities, and

31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Florida Senate encourages
32 and welcomes bipartisan support in recognition of Israel's right
33 to academic freedom and collaboration with institutions around
34 the world.